

Liturgy Alive of Thursday, 34th Week in Ordinary Time

Introduction

St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his 116 companions were martyred when Christians in Vietnam were persecuted from 1625 to 1886. Among them were twenty-one foreign missionaries. Thirty-seven of the Vietnamese were priests and 59 were lay people. Rather than renounce the faith, they chose to suffer countless suffering and dreadful torture. Andrew Dung-Lac, who represents the group, was a diocesan priest, who was beheaded in 1839. The group was canonized on 19 June 1988 by Pope John Paul II.

Opening Prayer

Our living and loving God,
you commanded us to proclaim the Good News
throughout the world,
that everyone may know your offer of life and love.
Through the life and witness of St. Andrew Dung-Lac and companions,
the message of salvation was proclaimed;
they did live in the world
but chose to live not of this world.
May the prayers of these martyrs help us
to stand firm in the midst of the present world,
and to give witness to your love and justice.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,
your Son came to live in our midst
to be the living bread
that gives life and strength to us,
even as he shared with us his words
of love and hope.
Let Jesus be our hope,
that we may never waver in our faith
and be strong in witnessing

that he is our Lord and Savior for ever.

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,
we have celebrated the strength and determination
of your martyrs who stood firm in their faith.
Grant us that same determination and courage
to be living witnesses to your love and justice
for our sisters and brothers.
Make us strong and able to love you,
even as you have loved us

through Christ, our Lord.